

# The Northfield Press

When you see red, start living within your income.

Vol. I, No. 34

Northfield, Massachusetts, Friday, June 21, 1957

Five Cents Per Copy

## Last Class of NHS Graduate At Ceremonies Thursday Night

The town hall was filled to capacity last week Thursday evening for the graduation of the last group of seniors to go out from the Northfield high school. The hall was decorated with baskets of peonies, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Carter and George N. Kidder. Mrs. Robert Barnes was pianist for the processional and recessional as well as for the particularly fine numbers sung by the glee club under the direction of Mrs. Esther Galbraith, music supervisor. The honor addresses were given by Martha Esther Parsons on "Home Influence on Character," and by Rita Anne Gibson on "School Influence on Character," and an address of welcome was given by David Amsden.

Rev. Lester P. White of Mount Hermon delivered the address entitled "Won't That Be Cool?"—an inspiring talk about what the young people can expect in the next 25 years.

Special awards were presented by Principal George M. Leonard.

The Bausch and Lomb science award to Rita Gibson who also received the Reader's Digest award as valedictorian, a certificate for the Webber Fiske training \$100 scholarship, the local P.T.A. \$100 scholarship and a certificate as a life member of the Pro Merito society.

A Pro Merito life certificate went to Martha Parsons as did the D.A.R. good citizenship award, and a \$300 scholarship from Aurora college. Supt. F. Sumner Turner presented diplomas to the 17 graduates.

David Norman Amsden, Fred A. Avery, Adriel Carpenter, Priscilla Ann Cram, Charles F. Field, Delores Rosalie Fuller, Stanley Henry Gaida, Jr., Rita Ann Gibson, Frances Ellen Gibson, William Crawford Jones, Raymond F. Kervian, Jr., George Edmund Joseph Mello, Jessie Ann Mroczek, Martha Esther Parsons, Veronica Powers, Shirley M. Raymond, Dorothy E. Stacey.

The class motto was "Concordia Falus" and class colors were blue and white. John Thayer of the junior class was class marshal.

The high school year book, "The Review," is now available. It is a specially fine edition with a white cover lettered in maroon, and is dedicated to Miss Mary E. Dalton, an elementary school teacher, who passed away on Jan. 1, 1957.

Quoting from the dedication, "For forty-five years this loyal devoted woman had taught in Northfield's public school system—it is a privilege to dedicate this final issue of Northfield's high school 'Review' to this fine instructor who has taught her last pupil. A large majority of us high school pupils, and the permanent residents of Northfield, have had the honor of sitting in her classes."

The book contains many fine pictures of the faculty, students, various activities and sports and will be a fine souvenir of Northfield high school. Copies may be obtained through George M. Leonard for \$1.50.

(See Honor Roll in next column)

## Little League Games

The Northfield Little league has announced the following scheduled games: Home games: July 1, Winchester; July 4, Hinsdale; July 11, West Northfield; July 25, Gili.

Games away: June 22, West Northfield; June 27, Gili; July 15, Winchester; July 22, Hinsdale.

The Fourth of July game will be in the afternoon but all others will start as soon after 6 p.m. as possible. The home games are held on the athletic field in the rear of the Center school.

## Winners Listed for Season's Final Party

The final card party in the series which has been sponsored by the Layman's League—Men's Club of the Unitarian Church was held Tuesday evening. Awards were as follows:

Pitch—high score, Robert Brasseur; low score, Joseph Bilmon. Whist—high score, Mrs. Electa Cole; low score, Mrs. Joseph Bilmon. Door prize—Clarence Spaulding.

The grand door prize for the season went to Leon Dunnell, an aluminum cooking set. A new series will be started early in the fall as these card parties have been quite popular this past winter.

## Friendly Group Meets Antiques, Hobby Show

The Friendly Group of the Congregational church met at the summer home of Dr. and Mrs. F. Wilton Dean at Lake Spofford Monday evening. Twenty-five attended and enjoyed a picnic supper. Miss Marian Andrew was the guest of honor at a shower planned by the group. She received many beautiful and useful things. She is to be married on July 28 to Harry Giffin, Jr.

## High School Honor Roll and Awards Are Announced

### HONOR ROLL MAY AND JUNE, 1957

High honors, all A's: Diane Coutu, grade 9; Carolyn Fish and Rhoda Smith, grade 8; Carol Atwood, grade 7.

Honor—all B's or a combination of A's and B's: grade 12, Fred Avery, Delores Fuller, Stanley Gaida, Rita Gibson, Martha Parsons.

Grade 11: Julia Cram, Elinor Powers, Harry White.

Grade 10: Betsey Glazier, Marilyn Porter, Curtis Shine, Peggy Streeter.

Grade 9: Lois Heselton, Richard Repeta, Judie Rice, Thomas Shearer, Jessie Skinner.

Grade 8: Robert Barnes, Martha Billings, Henry Kazanowski, Joyce Martin, Beverly Phelps, Joyce Roberts, Edwin Witherell, Robert Duncan, Dennis Lanphear, Peter Leach, Brenda Slater, Winthrop Spencer.

Grade 7: Cynthia Hafner, Patricia Kavanaugh, Gail Leonard, Sandra Peterson, Joan Streeter, Russell Dean, Kenneth Miller, Claire Walbridge, Ruth Wood.

Honor and awards at Northfield high school graduation, 1957: Bausch and Lomb science award, Reader's Digest award, year's subscription, Webber-Fiske scholarship, \$100, Northfield Parent-Teacher Assn. scholarship, \$100, Pro Merito honor society life certificate, valedictorian, Rita Gibson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gibson, West Northfield.

D.A.R. good citizenship certificate, Aurora college scholarship, \$300; Pro Merito honor society life certificate, salutatorian, Martha Parsons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Parsons, Northfield Farms.

The first outdoor picnic supper meeting of the Northfield Garden club will be held on Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Shores on the Brattleboro Road in Bernardston at 6 o'clock. Supper will be furnished for fifty cents and each one attending will bring his or her own eating utensils. In case of rain the outing will be held the next evening.



Christine Gray Kasandi has been appointed Director of Nurses at the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew R. Gray of East Northfield, attending Northfield public schools, graduating from the Northfield High School in the class of 1933. She graduated from the Nurses Training School of the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital in 1936. She has been night supervisor there for 13 years. Mrs. Kasandi has one son, Leslie, now in the U. S. Air Force.

## Christenings Are Feature at Unitarian Children's Sunday

Children's Sunday was held at the Unitarian church on Sunday with a program presented by the church school in charge of the superintendent, Mrs. Velma Miller, the assistants, Mrs. Ada Miner and Kenneth Miller and the teachers. Following the processional the program was as follows:

Hymn 331, Onward Christian Soldiers; declaration of fellowship, doxology, children's sermon, Mr. Slater; christenings; greeting, Dana Caldwell;

Action song, classes of Miss Parker and Miss Stafford; Happy We Shall Be, Robert Waterman; The Golden Rule, Rachel Black; Bee Song, classes of Mrs. Caldwell and Miss Moore; Flower Seeds, Deborah Black; Suppose, Douglas Reed; Summary of this year's work, Barry Webber; Twenty-third Psalm, class of Mrs. Miner; hymn, The Bible Tells Me So, entire Sunday school; prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer, Mr. Slater; offertory, Bible Bee, class of Mr. Knapp; hymn, In the Garden, entire Sunday school; passing out of flowers, primary class; giving out of awards and plants; clarinet solo, Brenda Billings; benediction, Mr. Slater.

At the special part of the service these children were christened: Douglas Edward Arsenault, son of Edward E. and Meredith J. Arsenault.

Arthur E., Donald E. and Gary A. Knapp, sons of Arthur E. and Violet G. Knapp.

Nadine R. Knapp, daughter of Ray A. and Erma M. Knapp.

Sheree L. Morgan, daughter of James H. and Dorothy L. Morgan.

Nellie E. Moore, daughter of Clarence A. and Flora M. Moore.

Lian L. and Twyla J. Starkey,

## Outdoor Picnic and Election Feature Meet

Forty-six members of the 20-40 Club of the Congregational church met last Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bordner for a delightful outdoor picnic meeting at 7 o'clock. At the brief business meeting officers were elected: Mrs. Elsie Bordner, president; Gordon Leavis, treasurer; and Mrs. Madeline Trumbull, secretary. The grounds were lighted and decorated with Japanese lanterns and all enjoyed games and dancing and a midnight lunch. The committee in charge of the affair were the Frank Bordners, the Robert Johnsons, the Robert McColesters and the Floyd Dunnell Jrs. This was the last meeting until fall.

Baseball games scheduled by the Northfield Athletic association are scheduled to be held at the athletic field here on Sunday, June 23; Wednesday, June 26, and Sunday, June 30.

daughters of Lewis H. and Alice M. Starkey.

Cindy J. Waterman, daughter of Raymond C. and Jeannette A. Waterman.

Sidney E. Thayer, son of Pfc. and Mrs. Donald Thayer.

The Afternoon Alliance presented Bibles to Clemma Black, Brenda Billings, Leonard McCasie and Nellie Moore.

The Evening Alliance presented books to Dana Caldwell, Richard Knapp, Richard Walker.

Mrs. Carroll Miller and Mrs. Joseph Morgan made the presentations.

## Pomona Grange To Meet in Northfield

The Connecticut Valley Pomona will meet in Northfield at the town hall Monday evening, June 24. It will be visiting officers' night and special guests will be E. Gerry Mansfield of West Peabody and Mrs. Mansfield and officers of Pomona and subordinate Granges throughout the area. The meeting will be held in the fourth degree so that all Grange members may attend.

A supper will be served at 7 o'clock by the Northfield Grange.

There will be no regular meeting of the Northfield Grange on Tuesday evening, the regular meeting night.

## Qualifies with Rifle

METZ, France (AHTNC)—Army Specialist Third Class Oliver M. Prentice, son of Mrs. Oliver M. Prentice, Cross St., Winchester, N. H., recently qualified as expert in firing the M-1 rifle in France.

Specialist Prentice, a mechanic in Headquarters company of the U. S. army quartermaster depot in Metz, entered the army in July, 1953, and received basic training at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. He arrived in Europe in October, 1955.

Prentice attended Thayer high school. His wife, Jeanette, is with him in France.

## Named Dairy Princess

Miss Brenda Lesure of Ashfield was selected as this year's Franklin county dairy princess at the Y.M.C.A. teen-age dance last Saturday evening. Miss Lesure received a complete wardrobe and the title and crown from the June dairy month committee of the North Central Massachusetts Dairymen's association. The judges were Carl Hedin, state representative of the American Dairy association, Dr. D. L. Hankinson and John Bragg of the University of Massachusetts. Scoring was based on physical beauty, 30 points; extracurricular activities, 30 points; personality and poise, 30 points, and general impression, 10 points.

Peggy Streeter of the Northfield high school and Sandra Quinlan of Powers Institute were among other county candidates for this honor.

## Alexander Hall Used by Many Town Groups

There was a fair attendance, about 25, at the annual meeting of the women of Northfield held Saturday afternoon at the Alexander hall.

Mrs. Gladys Bistrek, chairman of the committee, presided and the meeting was opened with a salute to the flag and the singing of "America, the Beautiful" with Samuel Bishop accompanying at the piano.

Three members of the committee were elected for a term of three years: Mrs. Rose Spencer, Mrs. Samuel Bishop and Mrs. Louis Sojka. Other members are: Mrs. Maud Wood, Mrs. Margaret Lombard, Mrs. Carolyn Parenteau, two years; Mrs. George Carr, Mrs. Philip Holton, Mrs. Stanley Bistrek, one year.

Retiring from the committee were Mrs. Marshall Lanphear, Mrs. Edward M. Morgan and Mrs. Samuel Bishop who had been appointed to complete the term of the late Miss Mary Dalton. Mrs. L. Percy Goodspeed and Miss Fanny Stockbridge are life members of this Alexander Hall committee.

Continued on Page Seven



# The Northfield Press

"The only newspaper in the world devoted to the interests of the Town of Northfield, Massachusetts"

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Volume I, No. 34 Page Two Friday, June 21, 1957

## THE WISTFUL HOUR

When the robins begin their evening lay  
And the sun hangs low in the West,  
It's the wistful hour in a woman's day:  
The time when young things seek the nest  
And little children, tired with play,  
Seek Mother's chair as she stops to rest  
And nestle close to her loving breast.  
She likes to sit in the mellow twilight  
By the open window, where they can see  
The man of the house, as he comes in sight  
Across the corner, swinging free.  
The children now in eager flight  
Share with the dog his canine glee —  
While the teakettle sings right merrily.

— Gertrude Churchill Whitney  
East Northfield, Mass.

Published Mar. 27, 1954, in *The Hartford Courant*

## We're on the Move!

It is in June, "when, if ever, come perfect days," as Longfellow noted, that most of us get into the joyous swing of Vacation Time...

...and most of us in this blessed America are able and willing to have a happy holiday—a lot of us with pay!

Amout three-fourths of all American families today have an automobile (14% have 2 or more!) Our roads and highways will be streaming with car-loads of us—bound for the woods, the lakes, the mountains, the seashore, or "just going some place."

East, West, North, and South, we will be on the move. And if everything in our land is not altogether perfect these "perfect days," we can forget for a precious interlude—and come home refreshed and relaxed, to try to make things better!

A benefit show for the Greenfield Lodge of Elks Charity fund will be given at the Park Villa Drive-In theater in Turners Falls on Tuesday evening, June 25. Activities will begin at 7 o'clock and a good time is planned for the whole family. There will be prizes for the children and free balloons and lollipops as well as 25 nice prizes for everyone. The moving picture, "Toy Tiger," will be shown. Children under 12 years of age will be admitted free.



## Church Notes

TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
REV. JOSEPH W. REEVES, Minister  
MRS. F. H. MOSSE, Director of Christian Education  
MR. IRVING J. LAWRENCE, Choir Director

MRS. BELLE C. MARDEN, Organist  
Sunday, 11 a.m., worshipping with the Christian Endeavor conference on the campus of the A summer festival supper will be served in the vestry Thursday, Northfield School for Girls, June 27 at 6:30 by Miss Sophie Servaes and her committee of Guild Women. Boiled ham will be the meat dish. Please buy tickets in advance at the usual stores.

The young people of the Pilgrim Fellowship will have a food sale at the Cregar hardware store on Saturday, July 6.

NORTHFIELD UNITARIAN CHURCH

REV. ROBERT S. SLATER, Minister  
MRS. FRANCIS REED, Organist and Choir Director

The church school will have a family picnic Saturday, June 22. All members and friends of the church, church school pupils and their parents and members of the youth group are invited. Those attending will meet at the church at 10 and proceed from there to Laurel Lake for a picnic until 2. Each person should bring sandwiches for himself. Cake and punch will be provided. In case of rain it will be held at the church.

On Sunday worship service with sermon, "Happiness," at 9:45 a.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Parents should bring children to church with them. The parish committee will meet Tuesday at 8 at the church. Remember the Labor day weekend auction and begin now to collect items for it.

The Evening Alliance will have a food sale on the lawn of the church Saturday, June 22, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The usual variety of good things will be on sale.

ST. PATRICK'S Catholic

REV. HENRY McKEON, Pastor  
REV. ANTHONY RZASA, Curate  
10:30—Mass.  
Masses are held at St. John's church at Millers Falls Sunday morning at 7 and 9 o'clock.

NORTHFIELD BAPTIST  
PAUL BUBAR, Pastor

10 a.m.—Sunday School  
11 a.m.—Morning Worship  
6:30 p.m. Young People  
7:30 p.m.—Evening Service  
Tuesday evening Bible Study with the pastor.

Thursday evening, "Hour of Power" at 7:30.

At 12 noon today, Friday, cars will leave the Northfield Baptist church for New York City to take a group of young and older folks to the Billy Graham Crusade meeting. All will take a picnic supper and they will make the return trip after the meeting.

Saturday evening at 6 o'clock there will be a youth choir rehearsal.

Monday a two week session of the Daily Vacation Bible school will begin and children will be transported from all parts of the town.

A series of meetings is being planned to begin on June 28 in an open air tabernacle seating up to 900 persons which is to be constructed on the church grounds.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN SOUTH VERNON

REV. EVERETT MOORE, Pastor  
10:30 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
10:30 a.m.—Junior Worship.  
11:45—Sunday School.  
6:30—Loyal Workers.  
7:30—Evening Service.  
At the Sunday morning service there will be a special speaker. The Connecticut Valley Bible conference will be held Tuesday. Thursday evening, prayer meeting at 7:45.

GOSPEL SERVICES NO. 3 COMMUNITY

11 a. m., morning worship.  
12 m., Sunday school.  
6:15 p.m., Young Peoples.  
7:30 p.m., Evening Service.  
Rev. Lawrence Sibley of New Haven, Conn., will be morning speaker and Richard Griffin of

## CROSSTOWN

By Roland Coe



"The phone was for you, but Mom took care of it. She said 'No!'"

Deposit, N. Y., will be the evening speaker on Sunday.

Monday evening, cottage prayer meeting, 7:30.

June 24, Monday through July 5 there will be Daily Vacation Bible school session each morning from 9 to 12 o'clock with the 4th of July. There will be classes for all ages from 3 years through the intermediate class and all are welcome.

Thursday, June 27, a group will go to the Springfield Gospel Mission to conduct a service.

There will be no choir rehearsal on Friday and the Sing and Bring club will meet as a part of the Vacation Bible school morning session.

Friday evening at 7:30, Prayer and Bible study.

Saturday, 10:05-10:30, Sing and Bring club time on WHAI.

## Classified Ads

Classified rates:  
5 cents per word first insertion;  
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## Antiques, Hobby Show

Folks in this area are invited to visit open homes of Granby, an exhibition of antiques and hobby show Saturday afternoon, June 22, from 1 to 5 o'clock. Information and tickets at the Town House of the Granby Historical association. There are many interesting and beautiful things to be seen on this "open house" tour of this old town.

## BUY U. S. SAVINGS BONDS

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Wed - Thur - June 26 and 27  
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## Social and Personal News Notes of the Northfield Area

The local grammar schools closed June 12.

Miss Susan Bickford has been a house guest of Mrs. W. R. Moody. Miss Elsie Eckman will arrive today and stay through the girls' conference. Mrs. Henry F. Cutler is expected about June 26 at The Homestead.

"Joe" Costougue, formerly of the staff of Mt. Hermon school and The Northfield hotel, is staying at the hotel for a few days on his way from his winter home in Florida to his summer home in Gloucester. In the latter place he has stayed with the family of Frank Duley, former teacher at The Northfield seminary.

Miss Elaine Heyndenreich of The Ridge and Miss Judy Holbrook are assisting in The Bookstore this summer in the post office building. At The Bookstore annex in Stone Hall, Miss Elizabeth Sanderson will be assisted by Miss Beverly Dumbreck.

Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Reed have come to help with the summer conferences for their 12th year. Mrs. Reed has charge of Revell Hall where the girl employees live and Mr. Reed, afternoons, will be curator of the Moody Museum.

Mrs. Richard Frothingham and her baby son are visiting her mother, Mrs. Alice Mosse.

Mrs. John Powell and her son Stephen arrive Saturday to spend four weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Powell.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Brown will leave next week for their summer vacation on Shore Road, Perry, Maine. Last Thursday their son, A/IC Gerald A. Brown, and his wife and baby sailed from San Francisco for three years in Nagoya, Japan. Last weekend the Browns entertained their nephew, Prof. Carlton B. Brown, of the faculty of the University of Maine and his wife. He is a radar expert and teaches in the science department.

The Congregational church school took in \$220 at the rummage sale this week.

Friday Mr. Reeves climbed Mt. Monadnock with his Sunday school class.

Mr. and Mrs. Mott P. Gulse and their two children have arrived from Florida to spend the summer in their 103 Main street home. Merrijean and Ricky will go to Camp Snipituit, Mass., June 27.

The New England Presbyterian Synod concluded its 45th annual meeting after a three-day conference at The Northfield hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Harper Sibley, who have been speakers at the girls' conference, now in session, fly to Geneva, Switzerland, this week for meetings of the International Y.M.C.A.

Members of the Northfield Baptist church gave a miscellaneous shower for Miss Faith Fisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher.

Janie Marie and June Marie, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs.

### TO REFUGEES

America is great — and tough.  
You will have smooth. You will have rough  
And weather? Climate of the mind  
You brought along. And once you find  
Your square for planting, once your own  
Muscle has broken earth, your bone  
Resisted yinter wind and hail;  
Once you have built to breach the gale,  
You'll know the price you have to pay  
Inherent in the right to stay.  
It is not landing field or dock  
You enter by—but Plymouth Rock!

—Selected

### DAR Members Enjoy Arcadia Wild Life Sanctuary for Picnic

Alwin G. Holloway, were christened at the Congregational church and at the same time, Nathan Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. George G. Abar.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Martin, who have been renting the apartment over Thompson's Texaco station, have purchased the house on Maple street formerly owned by Mrs. Bertha Leach.

It is a family tradition with the Parsons family to win honors. Three of the children won \$1,200 worth of scholarships this month.

Martha who just graduated from Northfield high school won \$400 at Aurora, Ill., college. Richard won \$500 Ralston-Purina scholarship at University of Massachusetts. Rachel won \$400 scholarship at Stockbridge school at University of Massachusetts. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Parsons of Northfield Farms.

Rev. Miles Moore of Bethlehem, Pa., who has a summer home on Maple St., came to Northfield for a few days. His sister, Miss Bess Moore, has been staying with her sister in Brattleboro during the severe illness of her brother-in-law, Ward Boylston.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Forsaith are entertaining for a month Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Forsaith, Jr., and their three children. They have spent the past six years in South America. Mr. Forsaith is an accountant with the W. R. Grace Co. and hopes to settle in the United States now.

Mrs. E. M. Powell held a neighborhood bridge party Tuesday in honor of three new neighbors who have come to Pine street and North Lane—Mrs. L. Dorchester, Mrs. Aaron Newton and Mrs. Gordon Pyper whose home is in the process of being built.

Two of the officers of the first class to graduate from the new Gill elementary school are from Mt. Hermon. Suzanne Rubendall is secretary-treasurer and Charles Petschke is president.

Miss Miriam Trowbridge has gone to Philadelphia to visit her niece.

Mrs. Alice Mosse of the Highlands has her two daughters as house guests, Rev. and Mrs. Richard Frothingham (Mary) and son from New York City and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne (Helen) and their son from Detroit. Mr. Frothingham will go next to Camp Drum as a chaplain in summer camp there.

Charles Mayberry returned from Greenfield hospital Wednesday.

Mrs. Francis Reed, another graduate of the Brattleboro Memorial hospital, has resigned a position at the Franklin County Public hospital to accept a supervisor's position at the Brattleboro hospital. Her hours will be from 3 to 11 p.m.

THE NORTHFIELD  
(MASS.) PRESS

Friday, June 21, 1957

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All are beautifully arranged in appropriate rooms of the houses and many priceless relics and souvenirs of Northampton's early days are on display. The custodian, Mrs. Thomas Shepherd, was most gracious and guided tours had been previously arranged.

If you are interested in antiques of all types be sure to visit the Northampton Historical society's home on 66 Bridge street.

Those who went on the trip were Mrs. L. Maud Wood, Mrs. Rose L. Spencer, Mrs. Dana Leavis, Miss Fanny Stockbridge, Mrs. Lee Bolton, Mrs. Ernest Kirmman, Mrs. Clifford Field, Mrs. George Thompson, Miss Nellie Nye, Mrs. Henry Prescott, Mrs. Albert Anderson and Mrs. Carroll Miller.

### TOP VALUE USED CARS

'55 DeSoto V8 4-Dr. \$2195.  
2 Tone Blue - Just Like New

'55 Ford V8 Station Wagon \$1895.  
Light Blue - 9 Pass., Radio, Heater

'54 Plymouth Belvedere 4 Dr. \$1295.  
Light Green, Ivory Top, Radio, Heater

'53 Chevrolet Bel Air 2 Dr. \$995.  
Black - Ivory 2 Tone, White Walls. Clean

'52 Dodge Coronet "6" Cl. \$665.  
Light Grey - Gyromatic, Radio, Heater

'51 Plymouth "6" Cranbrook 4 Dr. \$525.  
Maroon - New Paint Job - Good Value

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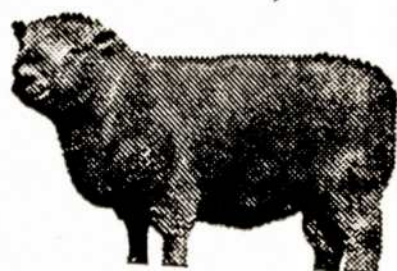
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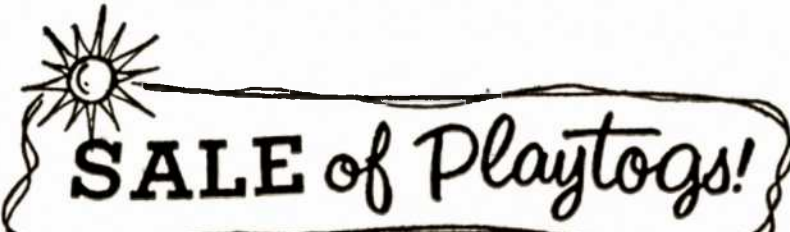
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# The Story of 'Old' Northfield

(Continued from last week)

The first was the Rev. Benjamin Doolittle, who came to the church in 1717, three years after the permanent settlement and remained as pastor until his death in 1749, just as the French and Indian war was ending. He was not only an ordained minister, but a regularly trained and practicing physician. He served acceptably both the bodies and the souls of the people. His skill as a physician, it would seem, was greater than his reputation as a preacher. But that he was a man of scholarship and good sense, a reading of "The Doolittle Narrative" leaves no doubt. A side light on his character is given in the account of a controversy that arose in regard to him in 1736 and 1937. Some of the people of the town had become jealous, apparently, of his growing prosperity in the practice of medicine. They resented being taxed to pay his salary as a minister, when he was earning so much as a doctor. Looking about for some excuse to get him dismissed from the pastorate, they declared him to be guilty of Arminianism. This to them was a grievous and dangerous theological sin. He was evidently inclined to assert the freedom of man's will against the hard and fast Predestinarianism of orthodox Calvinism.

This charge was never aired in open court and so we cannot tell how true it was. But the fact that his opponents attacked him at this point, combined with his dual function of minister and doctor, together with a sermon on "Enthusiasm," which he published in 1743, gives us a pretty accurate impression of this broad-minded, human-hearted priest-doctor, who, during those first thirty-six years of the town's history, dispensed "soul food" to the people.

Another name that we recall here today is that of Rev. John Hubbard, the successor of Dr. Doolittle, who served from 1750 until his death in 1794, a period of forty-four years. This was a time of prosperity for both church and town. While Mr. Hubbard's ministry was devoid of much that was startling, we know that he was a faithful and conscientious pastor, who gave himself wholeheartedly to his work. One episode in this ministry is illuminating. It occurred at the beginning of the Revolutionary war. Mr. Hubbard, in common with all other ministers of the colony, had been accustomed to offer prayers in public, for his majesty, the king of England.

Whether or not he was Royalist in his sympathies, we do not know, but the fact is recorded that after the outbreak of hostilities he continued this custom, very much to the disgust and wrath of some of the younger and more ardent patriots in his congregation. At this time the town was virtually under the control of a committee of safety, and this committee decided that these prayers for the king must be stopped. So one Sunday morning, as the service was about to begin, Deacon Samuel Smith, chairman of the committee, arose in his place, and informed the minister that while he would thereafter be allowed to read the Psalms and to preach the sermon, he would be no longer permitted to pray in public.

Mr. Hubbard quite properly resented this usurpation of his authority as a priest of God, and refused to submit to the committee's orders. The committee, having thus taken a public stand, felt that it was not consistent with its dignity to retreat. The result was a division in the church and a war of words that lasted for two years. Now of course, if such a thing had happened in Northfield, or in any other town or city in America, during the late World war, it is not difficult for us to imagine what would have happened to so rash and stubborn a preacher. But in 1776 Mr. Hubbard, secure in his position, went on with his ministry, and back of him stood a majority of his

strongest and best people. Not that these were by any means Tories, but they were men who stood for freedom of speech, for the authority of the minister, and for a conception of religion that is removed from the dictates of politics and special interests. We are glad to say that after a couple of years the difficulty was satisfactorily adjusted when Mr. Hubbard declared his loyalty to the cause of the colonies, and his opponents apologized for the manner in which they had undertaken to silence him. He outlived this period of storm and stress, and when he died he had about him a united and devoted people, who gave hearty assent to a summing up of his character made by Dr. Lyman in his funeral sermon: "He loved his people, he loved his work and he loved his Master."

The third man whom we should mention is the Rev. Thomas Mason. He too left the impress of his influence upon the Soul of Northfield. He was called in 1799 at a salary of \$400, and with the understanding that he was to remain at least twenty years. He did better than that, for it was not until 1830 that he resigned, after a ministry of thirty-one years. Mr. Mason was a graduate of Harvard College, of athletic build and prowess, a man, we are told, of marked ability and force. As might be expected, he took the liberal side in the controversy that split the Congregational churches into the Unitarian and Trinitarian camps.

It is of interest to note that during the first 113 years of the town's corporate existence these three men served as ministers for a period of 108 years. We can easily understand how, in a day of limited educational opportunities and of few books and newspapers, these learned, wise, and broad-minded men shaped the soul of the community, and especially when we consider the original stock with which they had to deal. As a result, we find a sturdy uprightness of character, a sanity of faith, and a breadth of view that mark the New Englander at his best. We do not mean that they were all perfect, these people of Northfield. We know that thrift sometimes became penuriousness, and that positive opinions often became bigoted, so that controversies were frequently bitter. That human nature was much the same as it is now, we infer from the accounts of the heart-burnings and discontent which were engendered when social ranking was established by the assignment of seats in the sanctuary. All these things we take into account, yet we see them as only froth on the surface, underneath which the currents of community life ran true and deep, fed by these men of God, who stood through these long years to be the spiritual and moral mentors of the people.

With all this liberal background in mind some one may raise the question as to how we can say that there has come from such Soul of Northfield the great champion of orthodox faith. On the surface it might seem that while Mr. Moody came from the town, he was not really of it. But if we go a little deeper we may find that, after all, he was a natural and an inevitable product of this environment.

The characteristic thing about Mr. Moody was his marvelous capacity of making religion a reality. Into an age of formal faith, encrusted with the scales of respectability and barren intellectualism, he came, a living, vital, irresistible evangel of the love and the power of God; he came with the call to a personal religious experience that was irresistible. Under the power of his preaching the Bible became indeed of Book of Life, Jesus Christ a personal friend, and God a loving Father. It is not his theology but his vital religious experience that is chiefly significant. Now who will say that this power to keep his feet upon the ground while his head was among the stars, this ability so shrewdly to mix common sense with faith, this power to keep his mind steady while his spirit was

intoxicated with the presence of the Almighty, was anything else than the product of these generations of men and women, who had lived close to the practical affairs of life, and at the same time had kept their hold on God? As a matter of fact, this is exactly the sort of background that a great mystic must have if he is to be a prophet that shall lead his people, instead of a dreamer who shall destroy them.

There is yet another evidence that the Town Soul gave direction to the career of her great son. In 1871 the chronicles of the town, in their admirably written history, after mentioning the excellent work done by the Northfield academy, established in 1829, and of the Select School for Young Ladies which preceded it, go on to say "The beneficent influence of these schools of higher grade is shown in the general intelligence of the people, and certain refinement of taste and manners, which at once attract the attention of the stranger." Picture to yourself, now, an ambitious boy, with all the possibilities in him that were afterwards revealed in the career of Mr. Moody, clutched in the circumstance of poverty, desiring an education and not able to get it, and wanting it all the more because of the very atmosphere of culture in which his boyhood was spent, and you can easily understand the impulse that caused this same boy, when he became a man of world-wide fame, to come back here, and give his best energy and effort to building these schools, which have become his most enduring monument.

Doolittle, Hubbard, Mason, Moody—there is the Northfield apostolic succession. We honor their memory as we gather here today. These are our heroes of the faith, whose lives have made splendid the history of the town. These, together with all the others of less distinction, but of no less character, our fathers and grandfathers, and their fathers before them, and the mothers also, these all have entered into the creation of the Soul of Northfield, which speaks to us today out of the past.

And what of it, we ask? Shall we leave it here a closed book, or shall it mark but the ending of a chapter? Shall we make of the past a venerated monument, back to which we shall from now on always be pointing? Or shall we find in this soul of the past an incentive and an inspiration? Shall we not look on it as something still incomplete? Can't we see with all the distinction of this honorable past, that God has provided something better for us, apart from us it shall not be made perfect?

We are living in a new dispensation, far different from the one in which they lived. And how sometimes challenging, and sometimes terrifying it is every one of us knows. The old frontier has long since passed away, but a new one runs through every town, and across the doorsteps of every church in the land. It is the frontier that separates Christianity from Paganism. Organized religion may seem to prosper when we invoke the god of statistics to demonstrate its success. But real religion, the religion of Jesus Christ, which is the spirit of brotherhood and righteousness, of truth and justice, of purity and sincerity of heart, and of personal fellowship with the living God, is struggling for its very life in these days. Instead of being encrusted with the scales of formalism, respectability, and cant, it is now being smothered by a rising tide of materialism. Its enemies are not to be found in science and evolution, but in commercialism, in militarism, and industrial despotism, whether it be of labor or capital. In the fact of this grim frontier, the divisions that separate Christian people and divide them into different theological camps are foolish and futile.

"New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth; They must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth; Lo, before us gleam her camp-

fires! We ourselves must Pilgrims be,  
Launch our Mayflower, and steer boldly through the desperate winter sea,  
Nor attempt the future's portal with the Past's blood-rusted key."

The world waits the advent of another Moody, not his duplicate but his spiritual successor, one who will do for this generation what he did for his—bring men and women back to a vital faith in God, and to a living fellowship with Jesus Christ in the redemption of the world. We wait for a prophet, who, with the light of God in his face, shall lead his people out of this wilderness of the present into a truly Christian, social, industrial and international order. And this can come, we are convinced, only as another great spiritual reawakening comes sweeping through the hearts of men.

We wait, and as we wait we work and pray, and we thank God for the opportunity of living in the present with all this past behind us. Today the Soul of Northfield summons us again, and we hear the voice from the past calling us, and we know that without us, and what we can and will do, it cannot be made perfect!

"Wherefore, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith."

The Hon. Herbert C. Parsons, a native of Northfield, spent his early life and young manhood in this town. He was a merchant here for some years, later removing to Greenfield where he founded the *Greenfield Recorder* which he conducted for many years. During his residence in Greenfield, he served with distinction in both branches of the state legislature. Disposing of his interest in the *Recorder* he became an editorial writer on the staff of the *Christian Science Monitor* in Boston until he accepted the position as deputy commissioner of probation for the state of Massachusetts.

Always, when descendants of the New England pioneers gather, there is discoverable in them some of the sturdy traits of their forbears. The one manifest here is endurance. On a hot summer Sunday afternoon, this great number of people has turned from the easy, and the rational, occupation of their leisure and come here to face the terrors of an historical address—and this after a t h e r speeches have covered the same field of history and two presentations in pageantry have made the events within it live again in all their romance and all their significance.

Out of a personal experience in historical celebrations covering a half century, I have a settled opinion that the most dispensable feature of such an affair is that labored production called an historical address. That experience began with Northfield's celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the same event which today has its two hundred and fiftieth. My small-boy recollections of that ceremonious affair are brightly tinged with the pink of rather lifeless lemonade, and redolent with the fragrance of peanuts and resounding with the music of the band—quite undisturbed by any memory of what was said there. The printed records of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial association carry a tremendous burden of l e a r n e d speeches made on that occasion of 1873 but they failed to imprint themselves upon the boyish mind. Nevertheless, there is a story to be told and one that cannot be left untold in justice to the traditions of occasions like this.

It is the story of a country town. It is the country town, their town, by the right of possession through many happy memories.

It is the story of a New England town. A renewal of thought of that transplanting to a virgin soil of the spirit of revolt against the restraints of the Old World, here to win through hardship and denial the boon of a new freedom, here to lay the foundations of a new social order, through the

creation of communities in which all men were equal and all men brethren.

It is the story of an original Connecticut valley town. A story of deep suffering, or resolute facing of difficulty and peril, in the effort to capture for civilization a new frontier. It is the story of the farthest outpost in the new advance, from which once and again the pioneers were to be driven back—unique in that it was not once but thrice settled before the foothold could be made secure.

They were not dreamers, but if amidst the labors of their rude home building, on some summer evening of 1673 they let their fancy play two centuries and a half into the future it would not have yielded a brighter, fairer Northfield than that of 1923. Nor would their Northfield have been a different one from this.

The conquest of New England was a search for homes. Its impulse was to gain broad fields, to drive the ploughshare, to make the earth yield its plenty, and with the wealth of its return to lift homes to comfort and content. Unfailing thrift, ambition for personal possessions, sturdy individuality, yielded to a fellowship in higher purpose, the union of their lives in the making of a community. Reverent, God-fearing, asking the blessing of God upon their every step, seeking a freedom of worship, respectful of learning, respectful of authority, but only such as they might share, their common concern in things material and things spiritual brought with the homes the meeting-house, the school, the pure democracy of their simple government.

With what emotions would the first planter of New England survey the communities grown upon the foundations they laid? Puzzled, overwhelmed, jarred by strange noises, glorying in the that they had won, these in turn of their thrift and industriousness, pained by the loss of the home as they knew a home, resentful of the uneven lot that replaces equality of sharing in the fruits of labor, querying whether the virtues they upheld had survived the strain of such a transformation—what their final judgment?

The lands they captured from the wilds and reduced to tillage have reverted to wilderness. The last sign of their homesteads has vanished. The meeting-house, the school, they or their early descendants built are gone. This is the deserted town of their hopes—its life gone away into the whirlpool of the mill town in the valley or to build other homes on broad prairies, to them in their day unknown, or other frontiers than that they had won, these in turn become no longer frontiers but peaceful, prosperous parts of a nation whose bounds are no longer by land but by sea. The forests have reclaimed the fields the settlers wrested from them.

For relief from the confusion of the mill town, for solace for the grief of the abandoned village, bring these patriots of the first days of the town where there have been lives and are now lived lives of the same tenor as their own. Their rude homes with their scant comfort have been replaced by homes that would have been to them abodes of luxury. The broad street they marked out has become beautiful under the care of succeeding generations of their kind and blood. The school has become an institution made secure by law and with its instruction shared by every child. The government of the town's affairs perpetuates their notion of a common sharing of responsibility and authority. The church has held its place. Their reverent faith abides. It has survived the rack of theological differences in which they would have borne their share, and under the spires of different opinion preserves and spreads the essentials of their worship.

Call the roll of the settlers of 1673, who by their own return or that of their sons were again here in 1681 and again in like fashion shared in the permanent foothold of 1720:

William Janes. Englishman by birth; first settler at New Haven; at Northampton in 1656; teacher in both places; Northfield's first  
Continued on Page Seven



## Miss Rachel Parsons Is Wed To Ernest Yukl at Turners Falls

Miss Rachel Luella Parsons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Parsons of Northfield Farms, and Ernest Fred Yukl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ednest V. Yukl of Riverside, Gill, were married Saturday, June 15, at St. Mary's church at Turners Falls. The double-ring service and nuptial mass were performed by Rev. Julius A. Jutt.

Miss Barbara Gignac, a cousin of the bridegroom, was soloist, singing "Ave Maria" and "On This Day, O Beautiful Mother." Baskets of white gladioli and carnations decorated the altar.

Miss Martha E. Parsons, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. Donald L. Yukl was his brother's best man. Ushers were Richard G. Parsons, brother of the bride, and Robert Leighton of Riverside, Gill.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a ballerina-length white nylon lace gown and a coronation crown with a fingertip veil. She carried a white cascade bouquet of stephanotis, feathered carnations and an orchid.

Her maid of honor wore a ballerina-length pink nylon net gown and carried a colonial bouquet of feathered carnations.

A reception for about 135 followed the ceremony at Community Club No. 4, Northfield Farms. The hall was decorated with pink and white peonies, streamers and wedding bells. Mrs. Edward G. Parsons of Hinsdale, N. H., was in charge of the guest book.

Mothers of the bridal couple assisted in receiving, the bride's mother wearing a green and white dacon print dress with corsage of red garnet roses. The bridegroom's mother was attired in a blue cotton dress with accordion pleated skirt, white accessories and red garnet rose corsage.

Mrs. Mary Whiteman of Turners Falls made and cut the wedding cake. Assisting with the serving were Mrs. Fred Avery, Mrs. Norman Kimball, Mrs. Everett B. Moore of South Vernon, Mrs. Stanley Stratford, Mrs. Howard Williams and Mrs. Norman Fowler.

The bride was graduated from Northfield high school in 1956 and is now a senior at Stockbridge school of agriculture. She is employed at Yukl's Greenhouses in Riverside, Gill, for the summer and will be residing at her parents' home.

The bridegroom was graduated from Turners Falls high school in 1954 and from Stockbridge school of agriculture in 1956. He is now serving in the U. S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Norris in Newport, R. I., and has one more year to complete his term of service.

The annual summer supper will be served by the ladies of the Congregational church at the church dining room on Thursday evening, June 27. The menu includes baked ham, potato salad or scalloped potatoes, pineapple salad, rolls and strawberry shortcake. Tickets at \$1.25 are now on sale at the Bookstore, Aldrich's Store and Avery's Variety Store. The June committee is in charge.

The Gill Firemen's association will hold a public auction on Saturday of this week beginning at 10:30 in the morning at the Gill fire station. The purpose is to raise money to buy an inhalator-resuscitator. Refreshments will be on sale and there will also be a food sale, as well as the auction.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union will meet next Wednesday afternoon, June 26, at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Green. Mrs. John Fisher who recently returned to Northfield will tell of her life in Arizona.

## Beautiful Church Ceremony Unites Arthur and Faith Stacey

Miss Faith Fisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher, East Northfield, and Arthur Stacey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Stacey of South Vernon, were married Friday evening at the Northfield Baptist church. Rev. Charles Petersen of the Christian Missionary Alliance of Greenfield was assisted by Paul L. Bubar of the Northfield Baptist church and Rev. Roger Charbonneau of Croton Falls, N. Y., a former Northfield church pastor.

The church, filled to capacity, was decorated with white roses and peonies. Samuel R. Bishop played the traditional Lohengrin wedding march and Mrs. John Dean of Holyoke sang "Because" and "The Lord's Prayer."

Frank Stratton was the best man and John Stacey, brother of the bridegroom, and Charles Lang of Winchester, N. H., were ushers.

The bride wore a white satin gown with lace bodice and fingertip veil and carried a bouquet of white carnations. Jeannie Fisher, her sister, was maid of honor and wore a yellow nylon net and carried white carnations. Dorothy Stacey, sister of the bridegroom, and Grace Fisher, sister of the bride, were bridesmaids and wore blue nylon net and carried white carnations.

Mrs. Ruth Pitt of Boston and Mrs. Roger Charbonneau of Croton Falls, N. Y., served at the reception at the church. The bridal party and the couple's parents were in the receiving line. Miss Bertha Martindale was in charge of the guest book.

The bride's mother wore a blue gabardine suit and the bridegroom's mother wore a navy blue dress with white accessories.

The bride wore a sharkskin suit with navy blue accessories when they left for their honeymoon at the Word of Life camp, Schroon Lake, in the Adirondacks. They will live on Main street, East Northfield.

The bride was graduated from Northfield high school and Providence Barrington Bible school, Providence, R. I., and recently returned from Flagstaff, Arizona, where she has been doing missionary work among the Indians.

The bridegroom was graduated from Mt. Hermon School for Boys and Stockbridge school of agriculture and is occupied in forestry work.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Starkey of the Gulf Road have announced the engagement of their daughter, June Carol, to Clesson M. Lang of Erving, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lang of the Gulf Road. Miss Starkey is employed in the office of the Erving Paper Mills and Mr. Lang at the Pontiac Sales and Service in Erving. A wedding is planned for the near future.

## Library Notes

Mrs. Florence Phelps, Librarian

Schools here in Northfield finished their year's work Tuesday, and now the library has definitely settled into its summer schedule. There will be no more groups of children coming in, but we hope all those who can get to the library will still want to read our books. Since there will be fewer readers the books you have been wanting should be available now.

The Bookmobile, the big new white Bookmobile from the Greenfield Library Center, paid us a visit Wednesday morning and about 150 books were selected by the librarian to add to our own collections. These include picture books for the pre-schoolers, and books for all the grades through high school, as well as books for the adults.

When you come in, ask to see these books if you do not find what you want on our regular shelves.

Be sure to see the exhibit in the reading room.

For the next week or two Mrs. Dorothy Miller will have an exhibit of her work. There will be two of her paintings, one called "Grandmother's Quilt," and the other, "My Kitchen." Done in a manner old but new, they could be called "abstracts," except that "abstracts" are modern and these are old in composition. Also in the group are two of her small landscapes.

To complete the exhibit, she will show two of her hand-painted trays. One, an example of a beautiful "lace edge" pattern of the late 1700's, and the other, a stenciled reproduction on an old tray of about the year 1825. Be sure to see these fine examples of the handwork of one of our talented townspeople.

THE NORTHFIELD (MASS.) PRESS  
Thursday, June 20, 1957

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Your hair grows about half an inch a month. The average single hair lasts from two to four years before it falls out. Any more questions?

The Guiding Star Grange of Greenfield will serve a strawberry supper on Tuesday evening, June 25, at 6:30 at the Grange hall. Mrs. Marjorie Campbell and Mrs. Dora LaPlante are co-chairmen. The menu will include home-baked beans, potato salad, deviled eggs, green salad, homemade quick breads, strawberry shortcake and coffee. Tickets are on sale by members or call Mrs. Cora Aker, 9 Garfield St., or Pres. 4-4719.

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## Through a Kitchen Window

There's nothing more spectacular than masses of mountain laurel in bloom, covering woodlands and hillides with a mantle of pink snow.

Each one of us has a favorite area of beauty, a favorite place to visit to enjoy distinctive beauty and loveliness at certain times of the year. Wild laurel on display in June is a handsome sight.

We followed the scenic laurel route to the Granville and Westfield sections of the Westfield river valley for a special treat. All along the arrow-marked trail groups of bushes decorate the highway. But the special sight was the massed rosiness splashing Phelon's Hill in Granville.

We parked the car there, registered in the visitor's book, walked through the turnstile and up the hill through acres and acres of wonderful blooming mountain laurel. Many times we lingered, turning to look back across the clouds of blossoms and to the distant hills. Or we stopped to examine what we thought were the prettiest flowers on a particular plant. With a knowing hand the mountain laurel arranges its own natural bouquets in artistic fashion. Rich green leaves form a lustrous base below the blossom clusters. The trip back down the hill was just as rewarding, perhaps more so, for we looked at the massed loveliness from a different angle and with a new appreciation.

Known to the botanists as *Kalmia latifolia*, laurel is sometimes called calico bush since some thought it resembled a shrub covered with a carelessly flung scraps of speckled calico. Others say the markings on the corolla are suggestive of old fashioned calico prints.

The Indians knew it as spoonwood, fashioning eating utensils from the matured wood. The Colonists, too, whittled it into long spoons which they used to stir and skim boiling maple sap. They called this evergreen shrub with glossy leaves laurel after their own tree in England, thinking it a low form of Old World laurel.

Mountain laurel, a broad-leaved evergreen, is a native of N. America and a member of the *Ericaceae* family, to which the rhododendron and trailing arbutus belong. Most



plants in this vicinity are shrubs; in the southern states they are tree-like. Mountain laurel is especially valuable and effective as ornamental planting when massed, with blossoms in terminal clusters ranging from white to deep rose. Blossoms in all stages of development can be found on one branch.

Linnaeus, the famous botanist and naturalist, named the plant *Kalmia* for his friend and pupil Peter Kalm, another Swedish botanist, who traveled in America. Going by stage to visit friends in New Jersey in 1749 he must have been immensely proud of his namesake as the road wound through thickets of laurel in full bloom.

The flower stems are sticky to the touch. No doubt this helps to prevent undesirable insects from robbing nectar reserved for bees and moths who will carry pollen to the next laurel blossoms.

Individual flowers seen at close range are of exquisite shape and texture. The rosy buds are most attractive, deeply ridged and fluted, shaped like tiny Japanese lanterns. The opening flower is saucer-shaped and resembles a 5-pointed star, with ten little depressions or pockets in the sides of the corolla. Into each pocket marked with a splash of crimson is tucked a stamen with an arching filament which springs up suddenly discharging a shower of pollen if brushed by a bee.

Choose a fresh blossom, lightly touch the stamens with a pin and notice for yourself the ingenious mechanism nature has devised to secure pollen distribution in the mountain laurel. Quite marvelous indeed. Harmar

## Some Reason

Auto Tourist—I clearly had the right of way when this man ran into me, and yet you say I am to blame.

Local Officer—You certainly were.

Autoist—Why?

Local Officer—Because his father is the mayor, his brother is chief of police and I go with his sister.

The beach is where a man gets water in his nose, sand in his hair and a gleam in his eye.

Money isn't everything. There are other things equally valuable, such as stocks, bonds, letters of credit, travellers' checks and lafts.

An Ohio man got 10 years in jail for putting an obstruction on a railroad track. Obstruction was his installment-due automobile. Train hit it.

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## AFTER NOON PRAYER

As I grow older, Lord, I pray  
That I will not impatient be  
With sounds the children make at play,  
With words of youth which seem to me  
To be so callow and so trite—  
That I'll not always swear I'm right;  
That I will not begrudge the young  
The pleasures which I knew before;  
That I will smile and hold my tongue  
At antics which I might deplore.

For tolerance, O Lord, I pray—  
And to recall I had my day!

Meteor experts were baffled by a black, porous substance until one of them showed it to his wife—who correctly identified it as burned toast.

dark o' the moon, when their silvery scales shine in the phosphorescent waters. Thought you'd like to have this information, just in case you're mad about sardines.

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## Alexander Hall Used by Many Town Groups

Continued from Page One

which has been in consecutive existence 46 years to care for the hall.

It was reported that the hall had been used during the year by the Fortnightly, the Parent Teacher association, the Historical society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, St. Patrick's Guild which presented the hall a pair of and Kingston as well as many other beautiful islands visited on the

copper candlesticks in appreciation of its use, the Good Neighbors of South Vernon and several other single meetings, as well as daily use by the school.

Mrs. Samuel Bishop showed beautiful colored slides which she had taken on a recent Caribbean cruise which included Jamaica, Martinique; Caracas, Venezuela, trip Mr. and Mrs. Bishop enjoyed this spring.

Beautiful flowers, decorating the mantel were arranged by Mrs. Ross Spencer and Mrs. Stanley Bistrek and Mrs. Raymond Parenteau arranged the refreshment table serving punch and cookies.

Flowers and gingerale were taken to Mrs. Edward M. Morgan, a committee member, who was not able to be present.

Following the general meeting the committee met and organized with Mrs. Ross L. Spencer, chairman, and Mrs. Stanley Bistrek, secretary-treasurer.

Anyone wishing to use the hall should get the necessary permission from Mrs. Ross L. Spencer, committee chairman.

Organizations and groups who use the hall in the evening pay \$1 for janitor's expense which is turned in to the town treasurer. For day time meetings there is no charge.

With the opening of the Pioneer Valley Regional high school this Alexander hall can now again be used entirely by the women of the town. Money was voted at the last annual town meeting to decorate and refinish these rooms and the work will be done this fall under the direction of this committee.

Mrs. Laura Jean Ingalls, assistant librarian at Plattsburg, N. Y., is the guest of her cousin, Mrs. L. Maud Wood, at her home on Main street.

## The Story of 'Old' Northfield

Continued from Page Four

preacher. It was he who standing under the oak that survived to be seen by the present older generation, first lifted the hand in worship to God in this outpost. Father of sixteen children, here would he meet his own name and find those of his blood under many another.

Richard Lyman. Born in England; at Hartford in 1636; progenitor of those of his own name still here, and of Pomeroy's, Mattoons and Fields.

George and John Alexander. Scotchmen; represented by the stalwart makers of Northfield's history at every stage in their own name and their kindred lines.

Samuel Wright. Born in London; founder here of the line that remains as a name and intertwined with others as familiar.

Joseph Dickinson. Freeman in Connecticut in 1657; son of Nathaniel of Wethersfield, in 1637 English immigrant; founder of another of the families whose name appears in every generation in the annals of this town.

Others in the first group were Hutchinson, Bennett, Bascom, Webster, Mudge, Miller, Root, Hilliard and Smead. Theirs are familiar names in the Connecticut Valley and continually reappear in the town's genealogies. Cornet Joseph Parsons, prime mover in the Northfield venture, never settled here and the name comes later to Northfield from a collateral line. Cornelius Merry, the one Irishman, whose very name as well as his nationality suggests enlivenment of the first group, seems not to have left a local lineage.

Lengthening the roll are Field, Stratton and Mattoon.

In the nation's history Northfield takes its place as the outpost of the line of advance of the English settlers in the capture of the continent. It was sixteen years from Plymouth to Springfield.

The advance was up the valley of the Connecticut, alluring to farmers, home-seekers, pursuers of new sites for communities which they had come hither to build. First discovery is traced to the scouting party from Quinsigamond, who pushing into the wilderness caught the first glimpse of the fair expanse of the valley at Squakheag—Northfield's Indian name—with its rich alluvial lands, and made due report of their discovery. The fruitful approach was from the south. It was a Northampton party that was "strained for room" who found the Indians ready to sell and secured the deeds to the present site of the town in 1671. Consent to establishment of a plantation was made by the general court late in 1672 and the first habitation was made in 1673, precisely 250 years ago.

No American outpost has been more daringly placed. It was an advance into the wilderness and by a long step. Beyond Deerfield, itself an exposed settlement but just established, by sixteen miles, there was no neighbor to the east nearer than Groton, none to the west nearer than Troy on the Hudson. To the north there were no boundaries, none of colonial limits, none of the English possession, none of state nor of civilization. It was into territory of an unknown tribe of Indians, akin to those of the Merrimack region and on land of great natural advantage to the savages, certain not

to be easily released, even under the solemnity of deeds of hand. It was unsheltered and alone.

The one protecting circumstance was that the Indians appeared to be friendly, that mistaken reliance of every such advance. Newcomers and clear owners made no venture to occupy their acres in scattered homes. A few rude houses, thatched with the rank grass of the bottom lands, were gathered on narrow space and surrounded with a stockade. It marks all of the pioneer planning, that while the settlers were devoutly trustful of divine protection, and duly confident of the native respect of granted rights, they never failed to provide a shelter against a possible foe.

This was the beginning. Here came the founders of Northfield families. Their houses were of equal size and identical kind. Society was never at more perfect level, nor agreement more complete. Here were a dozen families—the dozen stout men, the dozen brave wives—and their children. Four young Hutchinsons, eight Janeses, four or five Lymans, fewer Alexanders (it was between generations in the Alexander tribe, with the older sons not here and the younger but starting in life), seven Wrights, and on through the list to find that the living children of these few households numbered sixty-six, not less than forty or fifty being in this little palisaded outpost.

It was a period of calm and security in the valley. Nothing indicated unfriendliness in the natives. Tidings of the trouble of the coast settlements with Philip, the unfaithful son of Massasoit, came

slowly and caused no unrest. It was in the third summer that the burning of Brookfield stirred the fears of the valley settlers and caused Hatfield to be turned into headquarters for a pitifully small company of dragoons. Scouts traveled the valley and the appearance of some strange Indians of strange tribes caused the demand that the natives give up their arms. The arms having been returned upon a fictitious plea, the march of Lothrop towards Deerfield was to demand their return—with the fateful consequence that has made a place in history for Bloody Brook. Then came the attacks on the forts at Deerfield, into which the settlers had withdrawn their families, and the valley was in full alarm.

Far to the front was Squakheag, and to its relief was sent the little troop commanded by Captain Beers. The ambuscade in the ravine on Northfield's borders, the battle of Beers Plain, the killing of all but thirteen of the party, are an oft-told tale. In the stockade two miles away the sound of the guns brought its terror.

September 6, 1675 the rescue party under Major Treat, following the path Beers had taken and passing the poles bearing the heads of his slaughtered men, reached the outpost and led away its inhabitants, leaving behind the cattle and sheep to be destroyed with the homes which were soon wiped from the face of the land.

Continued Next Week

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## Classical and Modern Poetry Outlined at Alliance Meeting

The Afternoon Alliance of the Unitarian church held the last meeting of the season at the church parlor Thursday afternoon with Miss Oler Doolittle presiding. A special welcome was extended to Mrs. Helen McNeil, who now makes her home in Florida, a former president of the Alliance, who was present and to Mrs. Frank W. Williams, was was able to be present after a year's absence because of poor health. A resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the American Unitarian association about banning tests on nuclear weapons was signed by those present before being sent to President Eisenhower.

Mrs. Whitney, secretary, gave a talk on classical and modern poetry. She outlined several points on the art of versification saying unless a poem had soul it would not survive, even though mechanically perfect. She praised modern poets in general, admitting that some of them are obscure in meaning, like the work of some of the modernists in pictorial art.

She told her audience, one must always bear a clear picture in mind before starting a work of art, whether with a pen or brush. Mrs. Whitney read a number of her original poems, published during the past 30 years. Some of those most enjoyed were: "What Makes a Poet?" "Old Cellar Holes," "Blueberry Philosopher," "Three Women," "The Gildfinch," "Study in Yellow and Black." She also read some of the published poems of Robert Frost, Grace Hazard Conklin, a Smith college classmate of Mrs. Whitney, the late Miss Mary Reed Joslin, highly regarded Boston poet, Mrs. Kitty Parsons, distinguished Rockport poet, and Mrs. Whitney's son, Rev. George Churchill Whitney of Tucson, Ariz.

In addition to her success in the field of poetry, Mrs. Whitney is actively engaged in journalistic work and painting, exhibiting annually with the Deerfield Valley Arts association.

A social half hour followed with light refreshments served by the hostesses, Mrs. Carroll Miller and Mrs. Harold Bigelow. The next meeting will be Sept. 12.

[One of Mrs. Whitney's poems will be found on page two of this issue of The Press.]

The American Legion auxiliary will hold a food sale tomorrow afternoon on the lawn at the home of Mrs. John Spindler on Main street in East Northfield. All in-

terested in the auxiliary and its work are invited to contribute food for the sale.

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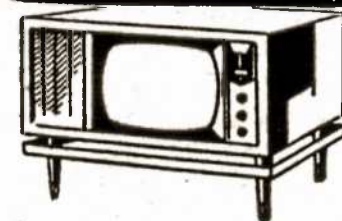
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